

Minutes of the University of Central Oklahoma
43nd FACULTY SENATE
March 14, 2013
Education Building 106

CALL TO ORDER

President Mock called the meeting to order at 2:22 pm and asked for a call of the roll. A quorum was found to be present for this meeting of the 43nd UCO Faculty Senate.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present (21): Senator Adele, Senator Barger-Johnson, Senator Barnes, Senator Brown, Senator Charoenwongse-Shaw, Senator Chappell, Senator Cowan, Senator DeBolt, Senator Delano, Senator Dickson, Senator Farnell, Senator Fister, Senator Holt, Senator Kickham, Senator Krishnan, Senator Mazuet, Senator Mertens, Senator Mizell, President Mock, Senator Patrick, Senator Rundle.

Members Absent (15): Senator Butler, Senator Clavin, Senator Chooback, Senator Epstein, Senator Ferguson, Senator Frush, Senator Garcia, Senator Glaubitz, Senator Khandaker, Senator Lindblade, Senator Maddy, Senator Nelson, Senator Overman, Senator Shin, Senator Vanhoy.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS TO THE SENATE:

No visitors present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting as distributed were approved without correction.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President's Report

President's Report, 14March2013

On February 19th, the executive committee met with President Betz and Provost Radke. Our agenda items were: their thoughts on the two-track model for full-time faculty; the provost

search; strategic planning sub-groups; and their thoughts about the situation of higher education in the legislature. On the double-track, or two-track model, there are many difficulties to be addressed. It is the case that some faculty members simply do not want to be in-class teachers, so the new model would be appealing. We asked about accreditation problems that may be foreseen. To this, president Betz, who has been an accreditor, noted the accreditation models are 'morphing,' so there simply isn't a stable model. However, since we are now approved by the HLC and our regents to offer one hundred percent of our classes on-line, accreditation should not be damaged as long as we keep our eyes focused on maintaining course quality. The State Regents' Task Force is looking at e-core for a body of courses which will be applicable for all colleges in the state system, based upon what is called the Georgia Model. The president noted that the Georgia Model needs a state-wide buy-in to work, and if we know it is coming we should get our parts sorted out quite quickly. He chancellor seems to want something like the Georgia Model, and we should not only think about on-line courses but very much on-line programs. Provost Radke believes that we need to institute an action team to work through these problems, as we had for the SPIE and prior learning. We also need to think about what would be a desirable proportion between face-to-face and on-line courses. We had a lengthy discussion about on-line courses in general, and graduate courses and programs in specific, looking into examples with residency components and methods to improve testing, possibly using various versions of off-campus as well as on-campus centers. Senator Epstein spoke about the possible value of different structures for course development, using teams of faculty and IT experts working to produce better packaged courses than individual faculty could. This led into a discussion of the advantages of team-teaching in general. As to the provost search, it has been slightly extended, so that the announcement of the prospective provosts will be around the 28th or

29th of April. The president told us the prospects look very good, using the term a “robust harvest,” and the goal is to have someone in-place before Provost Radke leaves. As to the strategic planning sub-groups, they were said to be re-calibrating as we spoke, and working to assure that President’s Cabinet members were not dominating or steering the groups. This led us to a discussion of ways to identify and serve varieties of students that we currently neither target nor have. Finally, as to thoughts about the legislature, the most important technique for stopping problematic legislation is to have it killed in committee: once it gets to the floor, it is hard to predict what will happen.

I sent an information e-mail after the 04 March Budget Task force meeting, but, to reprise a bit and expand slightly, there is no new money for higher education in the governor’s budget. As I noted, there is a bit over three million dollars in mandatory cost increases (insurance, and so on). As to our bond refinancing and debt service costs, legislature took higher education money to use to balance the state budget, and now there is no money to pay it back to the regents and to the university. This produces another hole in the budget. And, the mandatory cost list keeps growing.

On the brighter side, fall enrolment numbers/projections are bouncing around 1.3 % above last year at this time. It is especially noteworthy that Enrollment Management sees better academic quality in terms of incoming students. A significant number of students' ACT is 24 or higher. However, the scholarship possibilities indicate many students may go elsewhere if they get better offers. 24 or 25 ACT students may in fact get a better deal from a community college. Spring enrollment is the highest ever.

Vice President's Report:

No report

Webmaster/Historian's Report:

No report

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

No expenditures reported.

Parliamentarian's Report:

The second round of nominations for the 44th faculty senate is in progress, more nominations are needed from the College of Business by 3/22/13. Volunteers to count ballots are needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Faculty Merit Credit Committee reports they are in the application review phase.
- Adjunct Affairs Committee reports that adjuncts are not always aware of departmental issues and should be kept informed via email and by invitation to attend departmental events.
- The Graduate Council report was sent via email on 3/12/13. Specific discussion points in the faculty senate were the clarification of minimum hours required for graduate enrollment, standardization of the GPA requirement for conditional students to be in good standing, new GRE requirements, and a proposal for better data management for graduate program admission and retention.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Section 3.6.2.1 Academic Early Referral system (AERS) Grades was passed by vote.
- Section 3.9 regarding office hours was discussed considering that some faculty may teach only on-line, only in the classroom, and others may teach a combination of on-line and in the classroom. This matter was referred to the Handbook Committee for further review.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

There is a library Faculty Liaison luncheon at the Library, pass any library requests to the faculty liaison.

The Library on-line subscription service was partially subsidized last year by sources outside of Legislative funding. This may be necessary this next fiscal period or there is a risk of losing access to some of the most used sites in the library's on-line database. A handout was provided outlining the cost and number of searches for approximately 30 database sites available at the library.

ADJOURNMENT: President Mock adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary/Treasurer

Dana Rundle, 4/8/13